

"Elder Curtis, to me, was a man to whom God had given the keys of heaven, and I was sure that he was the man who held the gates of heaven and could shut or open them as he thought best. As for the sermons, I have no remembrance of them only as they increased my ideas as to his power to punish sin and reward good. With all of my boyish fear I never for a moment doubted but that Elder Curtis was just and whatever he said must be so and must be right. The prayer meetings were a pleasure to me, not that they had any spiritual meaning to me, but the vocabulary and phraseology and tone of voice were so unlike that I listened more as a lover of music does to the tunes, and as I close my eyes and look back, I can hear the tones of Brother Randall, Brother Deacon Davenport, Horace Griswold, David Sanders, Sidney Norton, Milo Gaylord, Deacon Grennell, Samuel Lee and my father. They all seemed to me to be talking to someone in the room and I now do not doubt that this was so. The prayers were all more or less scriptural, but each one seemed to have a personal liking for different parts or phrases taken from the Bible. As literary productions they might not stand high, but as the outgoings of the heart to a divine heavenly father they were a true and beautiful tribute to the lives of the men who were making them and were in the highest and best sense true prayers, although made by men who had little time to read, much less to study the rules of English composition.

"Time will only allow me to mention a few of the men who impressed me most, and Francis Griswold stands out as a character that for his times is typical of the men of today who have become what in common language are called captains of industry. He was a powerful man of untiring industry who was everlastingly up and doing and his energy and push made others work also. What Clinton owes to Francis Griswold we cannot tell, but without such men any place will sink into oblivion. The larger part of the human race surrounded by the conditions that prevailed where Francis Griswold was fighting the battle of life would never have made an effort to help the world of business to move around. He was a power for good in the community not only to the advancement of its material well being, but of its moral and spiritual growth. He was a man of deeds, not of words. He was by natural law a leader of men, and the advancement of this county has been because of the lives and hopes of just such men as Francis Griswold.

"Deacon Davenport, or Squire Davenport, as he was the legal representative of the law, was a man who impressed me with his dignity and responsibility, and stood in about the same place as regards the reward or punishment of statute law as Elder Curtis did as regards spiritual law. What he did could not be questioned because the law as laid down in the book was thus and so. Deacon Davenport was a man whom everybody respected, as it was easy for us boys to see that he lived as the law directed. As his words were governed by the law, so was his life, and furthermore we could see that while he was the mouth piece of statute law, he was a godly man and his words and actions always showed his reverence for the Great Creator. His life was such that his influence was always on the side of righteousness.

"Squire West was a great reader and probably the most scholarly of